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Fifty-eighth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 97 (b)
Operational activities for development

Morocco:* draft resolution

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-seventh annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 2003,[1] in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation were re-emphasized,

1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its thirteenth session[2] and the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at that session,[3] and decides to change the name of the Committee to High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/58/413, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39).

[3] Ibid., annex I.

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2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation[4] and on raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation;[5]

3. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen further the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system, and recognizes that its activities should be perceived as an integral part of the overall development policy of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations system and that South-South cooperation should be addressed as a cross-cutting issue in the United Nations system;

4. *Notes with interest* that South-South cooperation is having a positive impact on global, regional and national policies and actions in the economic, social and development fields in the developing countries, and urges developing countries and their partners to intensify South-South and triangular cooperation in these areas, as they contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[6]

5. *Recognizes* the urgent need to help strengthen the capacities of the developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to participate in and benefit from globalization and liberalization processes, and to this end welcomes the initiatives being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms, such as the World Trade Forum, aiming to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment;

6. *Reiterates* the urgent need to help strengthen institutions and centres of excellence in the South, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to making more effective use of such entities towards improved South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern, and in this context encourages such institutions, centres of excellence as well as regional and subregional economic groupings to establish closer links and bridges among themselves, including through the Web of Information for Development of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme as it expands to become a main knowledge platform for resource facilities of the Programme;

7. *Welcomes* the holding of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 December 2003, in accordance with the decision of the South Summit of Havana, calls upon developing countries, their development partners and relevant international organizations to participate actively in order to ensure the success of the Conference, looks forward to the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation as an important landmark in the efforts of developing countries, supported by their development partners, to increase the momentum and intensity of development cooperation, and in this context welcomes the initiative of holding a forum of non-governmental organizations and

[4] A/58/319.
[5] A/58/345.
[6] See resolution 55/2.

the private sector on the occasion of the Conference as the participation of these important development actors in the Conference;

8. *Urges* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts effectively to mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, including those contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit,[7] the follow-up of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Marrakech, as well as the preparation for the second South Summit in 2005;

9. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, reiterates in this context its decision taken in resolution 57/263 to include the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, and, in the same manner decides to include the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the same Pledging Conference, and invites all countries, in particular developed countries, to support South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, these funds;

10. *Decides* to declare 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, the date on which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[8] and the International Decade on South-South Cooperation, beginning in 2005 and ending 2015, and in this connection designates the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the coordinator for both of the initiatives within its existing human and financial resources;

11. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session a sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to it at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] A/55/74, annex II.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.